

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

Present: Bradford, Fech, Franti, Eccarius, Lindquist, Konecky, McCollough, Schubert, Prochaska-Cue, LaCost, Rapkin, Zimmers

Absent: Hachtmann

Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Location: 201 Canfield Administration Building

Note: These are not verbatim minutes. They are a summary of the discussions at the Executive Committee meeting as corrected by those participating.

1.0 Call to Order

Prochaska-Cue called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

2.0 Chancellor Perlman

2.1 Life Sciences Review

Prochaska-Cue noted that IANR now has a website with materials on it relating to the life sciences review, but any additional materials sent to the review team are not on the site. She asked if these additional materials can be made available to the faculty. Chancellor Perlman stated that there is continual communications with the review team and the availability of the materials is not based on reluctance but rather on timing. He pointed out that material for the review team continues to be generated. He stated that some of the additional materials may be available but it will depend on timing. Prochaska-Cue noted that the goal is to have an open forum with the review team on March 26th and faculty members need to be aware of the materials.

2.2 Budget

Chancellor Perlman stated that there is no new information on the budget. He stated that he believes the university will have some cuts but the scale of the cuts is not clear. He pointed out that, with the current predictions, it is evident that this will not be a one year phenomenon. He stated that he is trying to think how we can approach the budget for this year. He noted that there will probably be a deficit in the second year of the biennium but there will be more time to thoughtfully consider how to deal with budget cuts. He pointed out that given the global economic situation it is likely that the next biennium will also be difficult. He stated that this is also a time of opportunities and it is important to find the right opportunities and to make the right balances so the university can move forward.

McCollough asked if there were any advantages for UNL being the flagship campus.

Franti pointed out that there seems to be some prioritization because it has already been stated that Programs of Excellence cannot be cut. Chancellor Perlman stated that while

within the University of Nebraska we are able to make priority decisions, it is more difficult at the state level to prioritize among institutions of higher education.

Chancellor Perlman stated that an exercise is being conducted with departments being asked what they would cut with at least a 5% budget reduction. He pointed out that this is just to see what departments would have to give up but this does not mean that each department will have a 5% budget reduction. He noted that there has been some departments that have been asked to consider a larger reduction but this relates to the assigned minus amount that the department had for this year.

2.3 Clarification on Nursing Program

Prochaska-Cue noted that in President Milliken's address to the legislature there was an initiative on the nursing program and building a facility on east campus to house the program. She recognizes that the nursing program is a med center program but wondered who receives the tuition from this program. Chancellor Perlman stated that it is a mixture. He stated that we receive the tuition for nursing students taking courses here. Tuition for the medical courses taken by these students goes to the med center. He noted that it works the same way as the engineering program at UNO.

2.4 Training on How to Deal with Potentially Threatening Situations

Prochaska-Cue reported that the Executive Committee met with UNOPA and UAAD officers last week and during the meeting the UNOPA representatives stated that they were trying to get training for secretarial staff members who are often the front line when dealing with irate students. She noted that UNOPA is not asking for training on physical defense but more psychological and communication training. Konecky stated that UNOPA wants training on how to de-escalate and calm down angry people. Fech pointed out that sometimes students can get verbally abusive to the staff and can become difficult to deal with. He asked what is available to help the staff deal with these kinds of situations.

Prochaska-Cue asked if Professor Scalora, a member of the Threat Assessment Team, might be able to help with training. Chancellor Perlman noted that the training being suggested is pretty sophisticated and one has to ask the question of the effectiveness in training the front line staff to handle the various situations that they could encounter. He pointed out that some approaches could be different for different situations. He stated that the real strategy is to get everybody to report incidents that occur. This would put the offending person's name into the system and experts can then review to see if a pattern is developing over a period of time. He stated that this is the most effective way of determining if a person is in trouble and intervention needs to be taken. He reported that at some point information will be posted and distributed that tells people what they should do in a variety of circumstances.

Fech stated that he appreciates that the Chancellor wants to implement the reporting of incidents but it seems like there could be some kind of training similar to the on-line sexual harassment training. He noted that there are a lot of gray areas here but the sexual harassment training did a good job of handling the variety of situations that could occur.

He pointed out that informing the staff of language that could be used to help students understand could be helpful. He suggested that Human Resources might have some training modules. Chancellor Perlman stated that he will check this out.

Prochaska-Cue stated that the other issue for both UAAD and UNOPA is the need for orientation of new staff. She stated that it could be as simple as providing information as to where to go to get information on various university services, policies, or procedures. She asked if there is some kind of funding that would help them put together a packet or provide some kind of orientation which could help in retaining these staff members. Chancellor Perlman stated that he would be surprised if we didn't have some materials already but he will check this out.

2.5 Issues on the Horizon

Chancellor Perlman stated that he was concerned with the Senate's decision to adopt a resolution against LB 674. He pointed out that the legislative process is slow and urged that the Senate carefully consider legislative bills so the Senate understands it well enough rather than acting hastily on a resolution about a legislative bill. He stated that LB 674 reflects good auditing practices.

Bradford stated that he thinks the Chancellor's understanding of the concerns of the Senate is incorrect. He pointed out that he did not think the Senate believed that information would be laundered if the bill was passed.

Prochaska-Cue stated that the concern with the bill is that it is worded too broadly and the Senate was asking for a narrower definition. She noted that she met with Assistant to the Chancellor Waite and Associate Vice President Withem earlier and they shared an overview on LB 674. She reported that the bill was being looked at by the legislative committee this afternoon. She stated that amendments to the bill are being made that should address the Senate's concerns. She noted that the Senate just wanted the bill to be more specific on some issues.

Chancellor Perlman stated that, as happened in the 2003 budget cuts, some investments will continue to be made even though the university will be going through some budget cuts. He pointed out that there are some opportunities that are too important for the future of the university to pass up. He stated that the administration is trying to keep these to a bare minimum but there are some things that are already in motion. He reported that one of these is Innovation Campus and currently firms are being interviewed that would assist with this project. He pointed out that this is too important a project to stop and plans must be in place in order for the university to acquire the property.

Chancellor Perlman reported that his suggestion box has been illuminating and that it is helpful to him to see what other people's perceptions are regarding possible budget cuts. He pointed out that athletics is self supporting and, in fact, has been contributing increasing amounts to the university. He noted that the athletics department is going ahead with plans for practice fields and a life center which will either be privately funded

or funded by the athletics department. He stated that the Pepsi contract was a successful negotiation.

Chancellor Perlman noted that some people think that the foundation can be the savior of the university but the money that is donated to the foundation is one-time money. He pointed out that the foundation is struggling like all private foundations because of the stock market.

Chancellor Perlman stated that other comments include whether the Scarlet should be on-line. He noted that at some point there needs to be a connection within the university community and having a newspaper is one way to keep this connection. He noted that he thought the Scarlet has been successful in becoming self-supporting. He stated that he wants suggestions to continue and will work hard on the ones that have merit.

Chancellor Perlman stated that he thinks we are still using too much energy. He noted that the City Campus Union still has a lot of lights on. He acknowledged that he is getting some complaints that there are not enough lights on in some hallways. Schubert stated that he thinks this is the wrong signal to send out. He noted that the amount of grant money coming into the university is increasing but lights are being taken out in the buildings. He stated that there is more overhead from all of the research that is going on and this should be used to help the university's budget.

Chancellor Perlman stated that if programs are being impacted by the reduced lighting than the lighting needs to be restored. He pointed out that hallways do not need to be brightly lit. He noted that he has checked with Compliance Officer Christy Horn about whether there is a standard amount of light needed for the hallways under the ADA and she informed him that there was no general standard that had to be adhered to as long as areas with obstructions are lit well enough for persons with limited eyesight.

Franti suggested having motion sensors put on many of the lights in hallways and in some rooms. Schubert suggested having a qualified person go through the buildings to decide on energy savings in buildings. Chancellor Perlman stated that if anyone has problems with the reduced lighting they should talk to their chair. He pointed out that the university is getting to the point where electricity use can be monitored by individual buildings.

Rapkin noted that previously the Chancellor had mentioned faculty members helping with new student recruitment. He asked if there was any new initiative to do this. Chancellor Perlman stated that SVCAA Couture is working on an initiative. He stated that the initiative will make sure colleges have a calling program associated with admissions. He noted that there might be a dip in enrollment for the fall semester.

Rapkin pointed out that people are feeling helpless and suggested that participating in recruiting of students might make faculty members feel as if they were doing something to help the budget. Chancellor Perlman stated that he can understand the sense of helplessness. He pointed out that there are some things that can be controlled or

influenced by people such as utility rates, especially in regards to the use of electricity. He noted that, with some degree, faculty can control enrollment although it can be hard to see the impacts of this.

Fech wondered whether there will be a net gain or net loss with enrollment. He pointed out that there may be some people who will not go to college at all but then there might be some who will choose to stay in state for their college education. Chancellor Perlman stated that 23% of the students are non-resident.

Franti pointed out that his building is so cold in the summer that he has to wear a sweater because of the excessive air conditioning. He asked if this is being looked at across campus. Chancellor Perlman reported that part of the problem is that many of the buildings have old heating/air conditioning systems that cannot be easily controlled. He stated that the campus is trying to update these systems. He noted that in some areas where research is being conducted with the use of a lot of machines it will not be easy to control the temperature.

3.0 Announcements

3.1 Update on Ayers Dis-invitation Committee

Rapkin reported that it is looking dubious as to whether the committee will be able to finish and have a report ready by the end of the semester.

3.2 Update on Ad hoc Committee on Research Misconduct Policy

Lindquist reported that the committee met earlier today and is working on a final version of a new policy. He stated that the goal is to bring it to the Senate at the April 7th meeting. He noted that both the ARRC Professional Misconduct-B procedures and the Office of Research policy will need to be rescinded and replaced with the new policy. He pointed out that the ARRC might need to approve the document before it is approved by the Senate. LaCost noted that Lindquist and Shea worked very hard to get language in the document that would keep faculty members involved in the investigative process stated in the policy.

4.0 Approval of 2/18/09 and 3/4/09 Minutes

Konecky moved to accept both sets of minutes. Fech seconded the motion. Motion approved.

5.0 Unfinished Business

5.1 Executive Committee Elections

The Committee worked on trying to find Senators to run for election to the Executive Committee.

6.0 New Business

No new business was discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be on Wednesday, March 25th at 3:00 pm. The meeting will be held in the Faculty Senate Office.

The minutes are respectfully submitted by Karen Griffin, Coordinator and David Rapkin, Secretary.